

Definition of Terms

As used in this industry guide, the listed terms are defined as follows:

ACFM: Actual cubic feet per minute.

Air sharing: The sharing of an air supply between divers.

ASME Code or equivalent: ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section VIII, or an equivalent code that the employer can demonstrate to be equally effective.

ATA: Atmosphere absolute.

Bell: An enclosed compartment, pressurized (closed bell) or unpressurized (open bell), that allows the diver to be transported to and from the underwater work area and which may be used as a temporary refuge during diving operations.

Boat operator: The person controlling a vessel during boating operations.

Bottom time: The total elapsed time measured in minutes from the time when the diver leaves the surface in descent to the time that the diver begins ascent.

Bounce dive: A dive to a maximum depth with an immediate return to the surface.

Breathing air supply system: A system including reserve breathing air supplies, compressors, cylinders, hoses, mask, manifold/switch blocks, “J” valves, helmets, diver carried gauges and monitoring equipment.

Buddy diver: Second member of the buddy system.

Buddy system: Two comparably equipped scuba divers in the water in constant communication.

Buoyant ascent: An ascent made using some form of positive buoyancy.

Buoyancy control device (BCD): A floatation type vest that will allow the diver to establish neutral buoyancy in the water column.

Burst disk: Part of the valve, this safety device releases the air from the cylinder if it accidentally gets too much pressure in it.

Bursting pressure: The pressure at which a pressure containment device would fail structurally.

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

Certified diver: A diver who holds a recognized valid certification from an organizational member of a recognized certifying agency.

Certified technician: A person capable of inspecting, repairing, and overhauling diving equipment and is skilled and trained to the manufacturer’s specifications.

Closed circuit diving: Diving in which the breathing air is recirculated, scrubbed and rebreathed.

Competent person: A person who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to employees and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

Compressor: A machine used to compress air to elevated pressures. This air is normally stored in cylinders for diver use.

Confined space:

- A. Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and
- B. Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults and pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry); and
- C. Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.